

ORNITHOLOGY.—Five new races of bulbuls (*Pycnonotidae*) from southern Asia.
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I

As early as 1943 Delacour (*Zoologica* 28: 21) reduced "*Otocompsa flaviventris* (Tickell)" to conspecificity with *Pycnonotus gularis* of the Malabar Coast of western India. The present author in 1945 (*U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull.* 186: 329), unwilling to follow him so far, nevertheless treated *flaviventris* as conspecific with *dispar* of Java. Now renewed study of the species, with previously unavailable material, convinces me that even Delacour did not go far enough and that to bring all forms of the group into a single species requires that *P. melanicterus* of Ceylon be also included. This unfortunately means that *melanicterus* becomes the nominate race, Gmelin's name having many years' priority over *dispar* Horsfield, 1820.

No characters are possessed by *gularis* and *melanicterus* to justify their being kept as one or two species distinct from *dispar-flaviventris*. Small dimensions and lack of a crest in these far-southern forms agree with the tendency in *dispar-flaviventris* to become smaller and show a reduction of crest-development from north to south (*cf. caecilii* and *dispar* with *flaviventris* and *vantynei*). The yellow gular area of *melanicterus* is analogous with the similarly colored gular area in the long-crested *montis*, a montane race of Borneo, and appears also in the juvenile of *johnsoni* (and perhaps others). The strawlike red throat feathers of *gularis* are matched in individuals of *johnsoni*, *auratus*, and *vantynei* and in all adults of *dispar*. *P. melanicterus* has the rectrices broadly white-tipped, while *gularis* has them narrowly tipped with cream; newly molted specimens of any population of *dispar-flaviventris* have these feathers narrowly tipped with white or yellowish white. (It may be noted that, in the closely related species *jocosus*, the race *fuscicaudatus* has narrow whitish tips to the rectrices, while all others have broad white tips, yet no one can doubt that these are conspecific.) The color of the iris in *melanicterus* is red, sometimes brown (immaturity?); in *gularis*

and all forms of *dispar-flaviventris* the iris is yellow, sometimes brown (immaturity). (Here it may be pointed out that among races of *Pycnonotus simplex* the iris color may be white, cream, orange, or red, and among those of *P. plumosus* either yellow or red.)

Examination of new material recently collected in Thailand has shown that two more populations of this bulbul, left unnamed in an earlier revision (Deignan, *Journ. Washington Acad. Sci.* 38: 245-248, 1948) may now be set up as subspecies. The first of these will be called—

Pycnonotus melanicterus elbeli,
n. subsp.

Type: U. S. Nat. Mus. no. 249038, adult male, collected on the island Ko Kut [lat. 11°40' N., long. 102°35' E.], Trat Province, Thailand, on December 25, 1914, by Cecil Boden Kloss.

Diagnosis: From both *johnsoni* of the adjacent mainland and *caecilii* of the Malay Peninsula, separable by the decidedly deeper color of the upper parts, which is an almost brownish olive green, without golden suffusion (darker than in any other form of the species known to me). From *caecilii* it is further differentiated by the greater development of the crest (equal to that found in more northern races) and rather longer wing (81-85 mm in 11 males of *elbeli*, against 78-82 mm in 10 males of *caecilii*).

Range: Ko Kut and Ko Chang, and possibly other Islands off the coast of southeastern Thailand.

Remarks: Named in honor of Robert E. Elbel, who has sent me valuable collections of birds from Thailand.

The second may be called—

Pycnonotus melanicterus negatus,
n. subsp.

Type: U. S. Nat. Mus. no. 450800, adult male, collected at Ban Hin Laem [lat. 14°40' N., long. 98°40' E.], Kanchanaburi Province, Thailand, on November 1, 1952, by H. G. Deignan; original number 45.

Diagnosis: With the color of the upper parts slightly darker and decidedly less suffused with

golden than in *xanthops* (northwestern Thailand), but lighter and more gold-suffused than in *caecilii* (Malay Peninsula), it is almost exactly intermediate between the hues shown by these two and about the same as in *auratus* (northeastern Thailand).

Development of crest and length of wing are as in *caecilii* (7 adults of *negatus* have the latter measurement 78–83 mm, while 17 of *caecilii* have it 77–82 mm); accordingly, easily differentiated from *xanthops* not only by color of the upper parts, but also by short crest and wing (20 adults of *xanthops* have the wing length 83–87 mm).

Range: Valley of the river Mae Klong, southwestern Thailand.

Remarks: Junge and Kooiman (Zool. Verh. [Leiden] 15: 27–28. 1951) have referred four specimens from the vicinity of Ban Hin Laem to *caecilii*, with the comment that the differences between even *caecilii* and *xanthops* are slight. Since their examples of *xanthops* and true *caecilii* were lent them by me and now again lie before me, I can only repeat that they seem to me to differ conspicuously in size, development of crest, and color of upper parts.

Junge and Kooiman had but four specimens from the Mae Klong basin, collected between April 27 and May 27, and therefore dulled and darkened by wear; in my previous study (1948) I observed that “the effects of wear on the plumage are so marked that only fresh-plumaged specimens are suitable for taxonomic study.” The series before me, taken between October 30 and November 12 agree in length of wing and crest with *caecilii*, but in color are much nearer *xanthops*; in the circumstances, they require a particular name.

II

Oberholser (U. S. Nat. Mus. Bull. 159: 78. 1932) separated the white-eyed form of *Pycnonotus simplex* of the northern Natuna Islands from the red-eyed birds of the southern Natunas under the name *axanthizus* (which I consider, as did Chasen, synonymous with *halizonus*, 1917, based on birds from the Anamba Islands). To the red-eyed population he gave a name in manuscript but ended by combining them with *perplexus* Chasen and Boden Kloss (Journ. f. Orn., Ergänzungsband, 2, 1929: 116; British North Borneo), of which the entire diagnosis reads: “Like *simplex* of the Malay

Peninsula but the irides crimson instead of white.” Following Oberholser, Chasen (A Handlist of Malaysian Birds, 1935: 201) gave as the extended range of his *perplexus* “Borneo; South Natuna Islands; Billiton.”

Many museum skins are without indication of eye color, but so far as this important information is available it shows that not all Bornean *simplex* have red irides. Red-eyed birds are known from Balambangan Island (type locality of *perplexus*), Rayoh (near Brunei Bay), Abai (on the Kinabatangan River), and Sarawak; on the other hand, birds collected by me in 1937 on the Kalabakang River (near Sibatik Island) had the irides cream. Moreover, two skins before me from Billiton Island and one from Bangka (whose birds are placed by Chasen with the white-eyed nominate race) had, like a series from the southern Natunas, the irides red.

The red-eyed Natuna birds are in fact not *perplexus* at all, and I intend to call them—

Pycnonotus simplex oblitus, n. subsp.

Type: U. S. Nat. Mus. no. 174759, adult male, collected at Pulau Serasan, southern Natuna Islands, on June 3, 1900, by William L. Abbott.

Diagnosis: Differs from *P. s. halizonus* of the northern Natunas and the Anambas by having the irides red instead of white.

From *P. s. perplexus* of British North Borneo separable, exactly as is *halizonus*, by longer and heavier bill, and probably also by other measurements (which can not be given owing to the worn state of plumage shown by my series).

Range: Southern Natuna Islands; western Borneo; Billiton and Bangka Islands.

Remarks: Color distinctions relied upon by Oberholser in establishing his races seem to me due wholly to wear, and Chasen has concurred in this opinion. Only two skins from western Borneo (Sarawak) have been examined; in dimensions of bill they seem to stand nearer *oblitus* than topotypical *perplexus*. The few specimens seen from Bangka and Billiton cannot be separated from *oblitus*.

III

In a review of the races of *Microscelis charlottae* (Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington 61: 6. 1948), I suggested that an unnamed form of the species would be found to exist in

southwestern Thailand. Specimens now before me show that this surmise was correct, and I name the new race—

Microscelis charlottae lekhakuni,
n. subsp.

Type: U. S. Nat. Mus. no. 450792, adult female, collected at Ban Hin Laem [lat. 14°40' N., long. 98°40' E.], Kanchanaburi Province, Thailand, on November 16, 1952, by H. G. Deignan; original number 180.

Diagnosis: Readily separable from *M. ch. propinquus* (northwestern Thailand) and *M. ch. simulator* (southeastern Thailand) by having the upper parts brownish olive instead of olive-green, and by having the under parts grayer and less strongly washed with a paler yellow than in either of these two.

From *M. ch. cinnamomeoventris* (southern Tenasserim) distinguishable by the decidedly paler brownish olive of the upper parts and the more vivid yellow suffusion over the under parts and also by its shorter and lighter bill.

From *M. ch. innectens* (Cochin-China) separable by the decidedly lighter brownish olive of the upper parts (which, in *innectens*, are as dark as in *cinnamomeoventris*).

Wing length: 80, 82 mm (2 females), 80, 83 mm (2 unsexed), thus agreeing with *simulator* of the same latitudes in southeastern Thailand.

Range: Lowland evergreen forests of southwestern Thailand, north at least to lat. 16°10' N., south to lat. 11°40' N. (where intergrading with *cinnamomeoventris*); probably also the adjacent districts of Tenasserim.

Remarks: All of five specimens had the irides gray.

This form is named for my good friend and generous host in Bangkok, Bun Song Lekhakun, M.D. (also known as Boon Song Lekagul).

IV

The bulbul *Criniger ochraceus* has been reported from the forests of southwestern Thailand only by Meyer de Schauensee

(Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Philadelphia 98: 58. 1946), who listed three specimens from Khao Luang as of the nominate race (along with genuine *ochraceus* of peninsular Thailand south of the Isthmus of Kra and birds of southeastern Thailand [*recte cambodianus*]).

A series recently collected in southwestern Thailand show that the area is in fact inhabited by a well-marked form that connects *ochraceus* with *henrici* of northwestern Thailand; it may be called—

Criniger ochraceus crinitus, n. subsp.

Type: U. S. Nat. Mus. no. 450785, unsexed adult, collected at Ban Hin Laem [lat. 14°40' N., long. 98°40' E.], Kanchanaburi Province, Thailand, on November 17, 1952, by H. G. Deignan; original number 194.

Diagnosis: From *Cr. o. ochraceus* separable by having the under parts a dark isabelline buff, deeper on the under tail coverts; from *henrici*, by complete absence of yellow suffusion over the under parts and by having the upper parts dark olivaceous-brown, not brownish olive; from *cambodianus*, by much richer coloration of the under parts and by having the upper parts a more rufescent, less ashy, olivaceous brown.

Range: Lowland evergreen forests of southwestern Thailand, north at least to lat. 14°40' N., south at least to lat. 11°40' N. (on the western side of the Tenasserim Range replaced by *Cr. o. ochraceus*).

Remarks: This new form is long-crested and thus cannot be linked with *Criniger tephrogenys*, a species still unknown in Thailand north of the Isthmus of Kra.

The colors of the under parts in the group are excessively difficult to convey in words. The under parts of *Cr. o. crinitus* are much like those of *Criniger tephrogenys gutturalis* (Borneo), but devoid of yellow suffusion. The under parts of true *ochraceus* are very like those of *Pycnonotus blanfordi conradi* of Thailand and Indochine.